

Comment (Case 3700) – Support for the proposed designation of *Diplodocus carnegii* Hatcher, 1901, as type species of *Diplodocus* Marsh, 1878

(see BZN 73(1): 17–24 [Case]; BZN 73(2–4): 128, 129–131, 132–133, 134–135)

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<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:BDC9A94F-F158-4FB9-9C17-E5EC6BD65328>

I am writing in support of Dr. Emanuel Tschopp and Dr. Octavio Mateus's petition to change the type species of *Diplodocus* from *D. longus* to *D. carnegii* (see Tschopp & Mateus, 2015). The type species material, YPM 1920 consists of an incomplete and fragmentary caudal series. Yet throughout the vast majority of paleontological literature, referral to *Diplodocus*, or direct comparison to fossil material is done so via the holotype of *D. carnegii*, CM 84. Consisting of a largely complete skeleton, CM 84 was the first widely distributed casted dinosaur. Thus, copies of CM 84 grace many of the world's major natural history museums, making CM 84 the most recognized and widely known specimen of *Diplodocus*. Due to the world wide fame and extensive history of scientific referral, CM 84 largely appears in an unofficial capacity as an "acting type specimen". Dr. Tschopp and Dr. Mateus's petition (Tschopp & Mateus, 2015) to officially make it the type species is a well-constructed and -executed petition, and as a sauropod paleobiologist, I completely agree with and support their endeavor.

Reference

- Tschopp, E. & Mateus, O.** 2015. Case 3700. *Diplodocus* Marsh, 1878 (Dinosauria, Sauropoda): proposed designation of *D. carnegii* Hatcher, 1901 as the type species. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, 73(1): 17–24.